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8 UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
9 SOUTHERN DISTRICT OF CALIFORNIA

10 HOANG MINH TRAN,

11 Plaintiff,

12 v.

13 WILLIAM D. GORE, Sheriff, et al.,

14 Defendants.

Civil No. 10cv464-GPC (DHB)

**ORDER DENYING PLAINTIFF'S
MOTION FOR APPOINTMENT OF
COUNSEL**

[ECF No. 176]

15 Plaintiff Hoang Minh Tran, a former state prisoner, is proceeding *pro se* on a civil rights
16 action filed under 28 U.S.C. § 1983. (ECF No. 1.) On November 16, 2012, Plaintiff filed a motion
17 entitled “Motion for Entitlement of Americans Disability Act [ADA] Reasonable Accommodation
18 Under Rehabilitation Act Title II Required Appointment of Counsel.” (ECF No. 176.) The Court
19 construes this request as a Motion for Appointment of Counsel. This is Plaintiff’s seventh request
20 for appointment of counsel. Plaintiff seeks appointment of counsel under the Americans with
21 Disabilities Act (“ADA”) and the Rehabilitation Act because of his “numerous mental and physical
22 disabilit[ies].” For the reasons set forth below, the Court hereby **DENIES** Plaintiff’s motion without
23 prejudice.

24 Plaintiff argues he is entitled to appointment of counsel as a reasonable accommodation
25 under the ADA and Rehabilitation Act. However, Plaintiff has not shown that the reasonable
26 accommodation he seeks (appointment of counsel) is available under the ADA and/or the
27 Rehabilitation Act. In fact, Plaintiff does not cite any relevant authority, nor has the Court found
28 any authority, to suggest that appointment of counsel in a civil lawsuit brought under 28 U.S.C. §

1 1983 provides reasonable accommodation to a disabled *pro se* litigant.

2 “[T]here is no absolute right to counsel in civil proceedings.” *Hedges v. Resolution Trust*
3 *Corp. (In re Hedges)*, 32 F.3d 1360, 1363 (9th Cir. 1994) (citation omitted). Thus, federal courts do
4 not have the authority “to make coercive appointments of counsel.” *Mallard v. United States*
5 *District Court*, 490 U.S. 296, 310 (1989); *see also United States v. \$292,888.04 in U.S. Currency*, 54
6 F.3d 564, 569 (9th Cir. 1995).

7 Districts courts have discretion, however, pursuant to 28 U.S.C. § 1915(e)(1), to “request”
8 that an attorney represent indigent civil litigants upon a showing of exceptional circumstances. *See*
9 *Terrell v. Brewer*, 935 F.2d 1015, 1017 (9th Cir. 1991); *Burns v. County of King*, 883 F.2d 819, 823
10 (9th Cir. 1989). “A finding of exceptional circumstances requires an evaluation of both the
11 ‘likelihood of success on the merits and the ability of the plaintiff to articulate his claims *pro se* in
12 light of the complexity of the legal issues involved.’ Neither of these issues is dispositive and both
13 must be viewed together before reaching a decision.” *Id.* (quoting *Wilborn v. Escalderon*, 789 F.2d
14 1328, 1331 (9th Cir. 1986)).

15 In the absence of counsel, however, the procedures employed by the federal courts are highly
16 protective of a *pro se* litigant’s rights. *See Haines v. Kerner*, 404 U.S. 519, 520 (1972) (holding *pro*
17 *se* complaint to less stringent standard) (per curiam). Where a plaintiff appears *pro se* in a civil
18 rights case, the court must construe the pleadings liberally and afford the plaintiff any benefit of the
19 doubt. *Karim-Panahi v. Los Angeles Police Dep’t*, 839 F.2d 621, 623 (9th Cir. 1988). The rule of
20 liberal construction is “particularly important in civil rights cases.” *Ferdik v. Bonzelet*, 963 F.2d
21 1258, 1261 (9th Cir. 1992).

22 In this case, Plaintiff has failed to demonstrate extraordinary circumstances. Plaintiff has not
23 shown that he is entitled to appointment of counsel under the ADA or Rehabilitation Act, nor has he
24 shown how his alleged medical conditions prevent him from sufficiently prosecuting his lawsuit.
25 Rather, Plaintiff’s numerous filings demonstrate he has a good grasp of his case and the legal issues
26 involved. In addition, the Court does not find the issues in this case so complex to warrant
27 appointment of counsel at this time.

28 Accordingly, the Court hereby **DENIES** Plaintiff’s Motion for Appointment of Counsel

1 without prejudice. (ECF No. 176.)

2 **IT IS SO ORDERED.**

3 DATED: November 21, 2012

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5 DAVID H. BARTICK
6 United States Magistrate Judge
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